

Message Text

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ORIGIN LAB-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 SIL-01 L-01 EUR-08
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DRAFTED BY DOL:DLHOROWITZ:VML
APPROVED BY IO:DTOUSSAINT
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096719

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: ILO, ELAB, SZ

SUBJECT: ILO: CONSULTATIONS ON AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17

REF: GENEVA 3039

1. WE ARE PUZZLED AT UK (ON BEHALF OF EC-9) AND CANADA

"UNDERSTANDING" THAT US IS REDRAFTING "ITS" PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 17. THE AMENDMENT IS NO LONGER A US PROPOSAL BUT A GOVERNING BODY APPROVED ITEM FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE JUNE CONFERENCE. MORE IMPORTANT, THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A MISUNDERSTANDING, AS THE US IS NOT REDRAFTING THE AMENDMENT. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE INTEND TO INSIST ON THE EXACT TEXT WORDING AS IT NOW STANDS AND WE WILL OF COURSE BE CONSIDERING POSSIBLE FALL-BACK POSITIONS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE AMENDMENT. WHAT IS INVOLVED IS A COMPLEX SERIES OF TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS FIRST TO ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE MAJORITY SUPPORT IN CONFERENCE SELECTION COMMITTEE (AND IN CONFERENCE, IF CHALLENGED) FOR ASSIGNMENT OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE RATHER THAN TO THE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH AS MAY BE ATTEMPTED BY THOSE OPPOSED TO THE AMENDMENT AS A MEANS OF "BURYING" IT; AND, SECONDLY, TO MAXIMIZE SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT WHEN IT IS CONSIDERED IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND PLENARY

IN A FORM WHICH STILL ACHIEVES OUR OBJECTIVE. ANY CHANGES NEGOTIATED SHOULD BE DONE IN A WAY AND AT TIMES WHICH SERVE OUR PURPOSES IN THESE TWO RESPECTS AND AT THESE TWO STAGES. TO WORK OUT AN AGREED TEXT WITH THE IMEC COUNTRIES MAY LEAVE US WITH LITTLE OR NOTHING TO NEGOTIATE WITH VARIOUS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHOSE SUPPORT IS INDISPENSABLE. EARLY MEETING WITH IMEC COUNTRIES CLEARLY IS DESIRABLE, HOWEVER, AND MIGHT BE SET UP FOR EARLY DAYS OF MAY GOVERNING BODY SESSION BUT OBJECTIVE WOULD NOT BE TO REACH AGREED MODIFIED TEXT. IT WOULD BE, CONFIDENTIAL

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ON OUR PART, TO ENLIST THEIR COLLABORATION IN OBTAINING AS WIDE SUPPORT AS POSSIBLE FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON A BASIS WHICH WOULD TRY TO MEET IMEC COUNTRIES' DESIRES FOR MODIFICATION COINCIDENT WITH MODIFICATIONS DESIRED BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN THIS REGARD, DURING FEBRUARY-MARCH GOVERNING BODY SESSION CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT, HOROWITZ HAD INFORMALLY ASSURED SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (SRI LANKA, IRAN, MEXICO) OF HIS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS WITH THEM DETAILS OF TEXT BEFORE CONFERENCE AND IT WOULD BE HIS INTENTION TO DO SO DURING MAY GOVERNING BODY SESSION. DEVELOPMENT OF SUPPORT FROM SOME PROPORTION OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MAY BE INDISPENSABLE IF FIRST OBJECTIVE OF OBTAINING MAJORITY IN SELECTIONS COMMITTEE FOR ASSIGNMENT OF ITEM TO STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE IS TO BE ACHIEVED. WHAT IS MORE, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO AVOID IF POSSIBLE BEING PLACED IN THE POSITION OF HAVING MADE ALL POSSIBLE CONCESSIONS BEFORE THE ACTUAL DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT IN THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN ASSIGNMENT TO THAT COMMITTEE, AS THIS WOULD

LEAVE NO BARGAINING FLEXIBILITY DURING THE DISCUSSION IN THE COMMITTEE ITSELF.

2. ABOVE IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. MISSION IS REQUESTED TO INFORM UK AND CANADA THAT THE US IS NOT REWRITING THE ARTICLE 17 AMENDMENT BUT THAT IT WOULD WELCOME A MEETING WITH IMEC COUNTRIES DURING THE EARLY DAYS OF MAY GOVERNING BODY SESSION FOR DISCUSSION OF BOTH TACTICS AND SUBSTANCE.

3. AMBASSADOR COOK HAD WRITTEN HOROWITZ DETAILED COMMENTS, WITH COPIES TO MAINWARING (CANADA) AND FORWARD (UK). HOROWITZ HAS SUGGESTED TO COOK THAT THEY MEET AT START OF MAY GOVERNING BODY FOR DISCUSSION OF HIS COMMENTS. THIS MEETING, WHICH WE EXPECT WILL INCLUDE MAINWARING AND FORWARD, WILL PROBABLY BE SET UP FOR EVENING MAY 23 AND SHOULD PRECEDE IMEC MEETING.
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4. WE ARE SURPRISED FROM REFTTEL (PARAS 3 (A) AND 3 (B) AND 4 (A)) THAT CARON, WOLF AND MORGENSTERN OBVIOUSLY

ADDRESSED THEMSELVES TO AMENDMENT TEXT (PARA 3 (A) AND (B)) AS IT WENT INTO GOVERNING BODY STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE AND NOT THE TEXT AS IT WAS APPROVED IN COMMITTEE AND IN PLENARY.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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